

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:12 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Fain made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5, (a) (2) Litigation: EGSC vs. EG Education Association KM2015-0717; (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Dr. Yan Sun; Mr. David Osborne, and Mr. Michael Fain. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present.**

## **7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order**

**Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.**

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

### **III. Public Comments**

**Mr. Jeff Dronzek commended the School Committee and the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee for their work in developing the Strategic Plan.**

#### **IV. Recognitions**

**a. Award of Excellence-Yu Jun Qin-EGHS**

**Yu Jun Qin was recognized for receiving the Award of Excellence from the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists.**

**b. October- National Principals' Month**

**The School Committee and Dr. Mercurio recognized and thanked all principals' for their work to support East Greenwich students.**

#### **V. Approval of Minutes**

**a. Regular and Executive for October 6, 2015**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes.**

#### **VI. Superintendent's Report**

**A new transportation communication protocol was rolled out last Friday and has already been used by a community member. The next flu clinic is scheduled for November 5, 2015 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. in the Cole cafeteria. NESDEC enrollment projections were**

**received today and will be forwarded to School Committee members. Enrollment is still projected to increase. Dr. Mercurio reached out to RIDE to ascertain a grant for Math/Science for Prek-2. There are no specifics on the grant value, but it could be close to \$20,000.**

## **VII. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

## **VIII. Action Items**

### **a. Appointments**

**1. After school Library Paraprofessionals-EGHS- Maria Collins**

**2. After school Library Paraprofessionals-EGHS-Lisa McLellan**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve appointments #1-2.**

**3. Paraprofessional 1:1-Cole-Mackenzie Marrow-Owens**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve appointment #3.**

### **b. Retirement/Resignation**

**1. Sue Verdon-EGHS Paraprofessional**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the retirement. Ms. Verdon will be recognized at a future meeting.**

**2. Lynda Horenstein, Program Support Assistant, Strategic Mentoring Program**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the resignation.**

**c. Field Trip-Contest of Champions-Orlando, FL, EGHS Cheerleaders**

**This request was cancelled.**

**d. Mind Set and the Math Teachers' Conference, District**

**Dr. Mercurio discussed the professional development opportunity regarding middle school math/growth mindset. This conference is**

offered out of state and the district would like to send a group of teachers who could bring back materials to share. A possible School Committee presentation and parent forum may be planned to discuss the conference. Funding can be used from the breakage that occurred when two high school teachers separated from the district. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Mind Set and the Math Teachers' Conference.

**e. Strategic Plan-Second Read/Possible Adoption**

Dr. Mercurio thanked all for their assistance in developing the Strategic Plan. No content changes were made since the first read, only grammatical changes and the reordering of items. Dr. Mercurio summarized the changes in 1.4, 2.4, 3.1, 4.0, 4.3, 4.5, 4.10, and 4.13.

Ms. Patty Harwood questioned the change in 1.2 regarding recruiting/hiring a director of teaching/learning. Ms. Mark explained the language was broadened to allow flexibility/support from central administration. She also asked about 2.4 and the reinstatement of RTI. Ms. Mark said the language was broadened, but 2.4 is still RTI.

On a motion by Dr. Sun, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to adopt the Strategic Plan as presented. Once the draft is finalized, a rollout will be planned. Dr. Mercurio thanked Ms. Mark for her efforts throughout the process from planning to completion.

**IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates**

**a. Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee met last Friday to review a backlog of policies

that need revision including Naming of Buildings and Other School Department Sites, Selection of Ad Hoc Committee and School Committee Advisory Committees, Professional Code of Conduct, Facility Rental Policy, and the Videotaping of School Committee meetings.

Language for the Policy Committee Charge is being crafted. Some policies will be ready for a first read at the November 3rd meeting.

## **X. Discussion**

### **a. “Safe Stop” Service**

This item was tabled.

### **b. PARCC results, preparation, and timeline for 2015-2016**

Dr. Mercurio reviewed the PARCC results, preparation, and timeline for 2015-2016. This information will be posted on the Supt’s Field memo, district website, and the district list serv. The tentative release date for PARCC is the third week in December. Communication regarding test results will go home prior to the release of the results.

A forum may be planned to discuss PARCC results. Mr. Osborne had several questions regarding students who received low grades on the PARCC test, but moved on to the next grade and the gaps in learning. Mr. Osborne also asked if the district could obtain item level data.

### **c. All Day Kindergarten Update**

Dr. Mercurio met with the elementary principals’ and middle school principal today to discuss assumptions associated with staffing all-day kindergarten and a school start time change. Additional teachers will be needed to staff kindergarten. Itinerant scheduling

needs to be addressed, along with health classes taught by school nurse teachers. The current grade five population is high and will have an effect moving forward to Cole and the EGHS. Dr. Gifford asked for data regarding all-day kindergarten and the necessity to mirror a grade 1-5 curriculum (i.e., itinerant offerings).

**d. School Start Time Update**

Dr. Mercurio and Superintendent Messoro (Barrington) are going to Sharon High School on Thursday to discuss the effects of the school start time change. They will meet with administration, teachers, students, and parents. Dr. Sharkey is working with Mr. Babson on the protocol for sending out the pre/post survey (school start times) to students. The survey will be presented to the School Committee (possibly in December) prior to the rollout to students.

**XI. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**